

REMARKS

The Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction of the claims of this application under 35 U.S.C. § 121 into one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-32 and 43, drawn to chemical compounds of the formula (II), classified in class 548, wherein the compound comprises a pyrrolidine ring, or in class 562, wherein the compound comprises a carboxylic acid group;

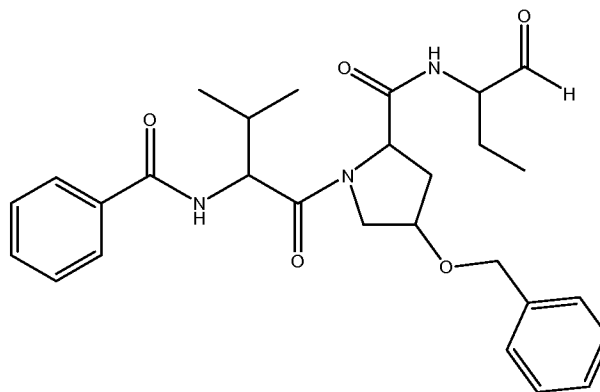
Group II: Claims 33-42, drawn to methods of treating or preventing hepatitis C virus infection and divers other diseases or conditions, comprising administering to a patient a compound as set forth in Group I and a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as set forth in Group I, all classified in class 51 in subclasses depending on the identifies of the variables in formula (II).

In response to this requirement, applicants elect the subject matter of Group I (claims 1-32 and 43), without traverse, for further prosecution in the present application. Applicants make the election of the Group I claims expressly without waiver of their right to file for and obtain claims directed to the non-elected subject matter in divisional or continuing applications claiming priority and benefit herefrom, or from a related application, under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

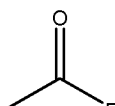
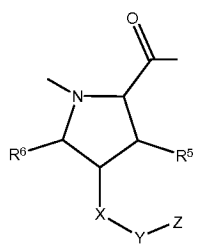
Election of Species

The Examiner has also required the election of a single species within the elected group for prosecution on the merits.

In response to this requirement, applicants elect Compound 149 of Table 6 at original specification page 97 (substitute specification page 99) for prosecution:



Compound 149.

In Compound 149, W is , wherein R² is hydrogen; L is ethyl; A¹ is ; R⁵ and R⁶ are hydrogen; X is -O-; Y is -CH₂-; Z is phenyl; A² is a bond; M is isopropyl; V is -NH-; K is -C(O)-; and T is phenyl. Claims 1-3, 32, and 43 read on the elected species.

Applicants will request rejoinder of Group II, with the elected group, if and when any of the claims of Group I are found allowable. See M.P.E.P. § 821.04.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants request that the Examiner examine claims 1-32 and 43 in this application. Applicants request favorable consideration and early allowance of the pending claims.

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Reply dated December 11, 2006
In response to August 9, 2006 Restriction Requirement

Respectfully submitted,

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